

From: [Garrison, Geoffrey](#)
To: [Bellow, Bonnie](#)
Cc: [Kluesner, Dave](#)
Subject: Re: Fact Sheet on Angel's Share
Date: Friday, February 15, 2013 7:28:53 PM

Great,

Thanks

Have a wonderful Presidents Day weekend.

Geoff

Geoffrey M. Garrison

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From: Bonnie Bellow
To: Geoffrey Garrison
Cc: Dave Kluesner
Date: 02/15/2013 05:44 PM CST
Subject: Re: Fact Sheet on Angel's Share

Made your changes and gave it to Judith. I'll send the. Final next week. Enjoy Florida!

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

From: Geoffrey Garrison
To: Bonnie Bellow
Date: 02/15/2013 02:57 PM CST
Subject: Re: Fact Sheet on Angel's Share

Bonnie,

I think you captured it well.

Two caveats:

1. I am not 100 percent sure that 900 is the number of tons of VOCs released by the warehouse, DPNR was going to get back to me on the exact amount that is reflected on the permit application from Diageo. Perhaps we should just call it "hundreds of tons" until we get confirmation? Regardless, Diageo is claiming that it should not count toward emission totals, based on a court case and precedent that control measures would affect the product.
2. To the best of my knowledge, VI DOH has not yet done the request, it felt like I was hounding them so I have not asked for a couple of months.

T

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From: Bonnie Bellow
To: Geoffrey Garrison
Cc: Dave Kluesner
Date: 02/15/2013 12:28 PM CST
Subject: Fact Sheet on Angel's Share

Can you look this over this afternoon. Judith's call with Commissioner Barnes is now Tuesday, but I would like to get this to her today. Thanks

ANGELS SHARE FUNGUS

U.S. Virgin Islands – St. Croix

February 15, 2013

Issue:

DPNR has received complaints from local residents and from personnel working in territorial agency offices located in close proximity to the DIAGEO rum distillery storage warehouse about a black growth on the surfaces of homes and objects within a certain radius of the facility. The cause may be “Angels Share,” a term for the portion (share) of the volume of a wine or distilled spirit that is lost to evaporation during aging in oak barrels. The presence of what appears to be a fungus has raised concerns about its impacts on people’s health.

Background:

Apparently, certain quantities of rum produced in the DIAGEO facility are stored inside wood barrels (or casks) for aging and flavor. This creates an estimated 900 plus tons of VOC emissions, known as the Angel's Share, in addition to emissions from another smaller distillery (Cruzan Rum) in the general area.

In low humidity, the loss to evaporation may be primarily water. However, in higher humidity, more alcohol than water will evaporate, reducing the alcoholic strength of the product. In humid climates, this loss of ethanol is associated with the growth of a darkly colored fungus, called the Angel’s Share fungus, *Baudoinia compniacensis*, on the exterior surfaces of buildings, trees and other vegetation and anything else that happens to be nearby.

The fungus is visible on road signs and other outdoor surfaces downwind of the DIAGEO facility and there are reports that it is also growing inside homes and offices, including in air conditioning systems. There is a community in close proximity to the source and people in the area use their cisterns for drinking water.

The emissions from DIAGEO are regulated under a DPNR permit. Information about the health implications of the Angel’s Share fungus would be extremely valuable in evaluating any potential health risks and determining if the permit is protective of people’s health.

Status:

Geoff Garrison has been working with DPNR on this issue and has reached out to Ginger Chew of CDC about the concerns. The Virgin Islands Department of Health has not requested a health assessment. A call to Chris Portier at CDC might be helpful in getting EPA and DPNR information about the health risks of the Angel’s Share fungus and how to address it.

Bonnie Bellow

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